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LAWYER A. E. STAKEMANN.
Christiansted.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLONIAL COUNCIL FOR ST. CROIX.

(Continued from yesterday's Avis.)

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*). You will notice that this bill calls for additional notaries public who will pay into the Treasury a fee of \$50.00, consequently this must affect the revenues of the Municipality.

The Chairman remarked: Such an objection has never been made before where the revenues of the Municipality are concerned; it seems to me that this is too trifling a matter to hinder discussion on the Ordinance today.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) remarked: It seems to me an important matter. I do not consider it trifling.

3rd Member for Frederiksted Country District (*M. M. Skeoch*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. How do you know what we vote now will prove that his objection is right or wrong? How will the Council prove that? It seems to me that this is a legal question. You have just stated that such an objection has never been made before.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*). I wish to ask the Chairman why this matter was not placed before the Municipal Committee for its recommendation?

The Chairman: It was placed before a Committee of the whole House. I do not know whether it was discussed by the Municipal Committee.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*). I can prove by asking the Secretary to the Municipal Committee to bring his record book that this Ordinance was not discussed in the Municipal Committee.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Committee has been ignored so often that it could be ignored on a again. The Code of Laws was not discussed in the Municipal Committee, it was passed upon by a Committee of 9 members elected by the Council.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I think my memory is pretty good, and as far as I remember the present Chairman of the Colonial Council was the one who made the motion in the Committee that as four members on the Code Committee were members of the Municipal Committee the Code should not be forwarded to the Municipal Committee.

1st Member for Frederiksted Country District (*Andersen*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. I am of the opinion that if Paragraph 7 of the By-Law has not been made use of it is not our fault; it is quite human to forget, but when the Chairman of the Municipal Committee brings to the attention of the Council that there is such a law, I think the Council should be the last to vote contrary. We did not know before, but we know today, and we should not purposely evade the law.

The Chairman. The question is left entirely with the Council to decide whether the motion made by 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) is correct; or whether the statement made by the Chairman and backed up precedents is correct. I draw attention to Par. 4 of the By-Law for the Municipal Committee where it says:

"The Municipal Committee supervises and partakes in the administration of the economical affairs of the Municipality according to the present By-Law adopted by the Colonial Council and sanctioned by the Ministry of Finances,

As economical affairs of the Municipality are to be considered all public affairs connected with the Hospital and Prison Departments, the Sanitary and Quarantine Departments, the School Departments, in so far ranging under the Municipality, the Pilot and Harbor Departments, the Customs and Post Departments, in so far as they concern the Municipality, the Telegraph and Telephone Departments, as far as concerns local communication, furthermore the superintendence with work done to public buildings of the Municipality, and also such other public affairs as the Government might see fit to place under the Municipal Committee

The Members of the Municipal Committee are to have their seats as members of the existing Communal Commissions. The alternation in the constitution of said Commissions to be fixed by an ordinance."

and continuing the Chairman said,—It doesn't say anything about judiciary, because no matter concerning the judiciary has been put before the Municipal Committee before. If the Honorable Members of this House wish to stop this measure on such a flimsy ground as given by the Honorable Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) they are at liberty to do so.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town

(*Canegata*) remarked: The Chairman says there are precedents, I would like to hear him quote one.

The Chairman. Laws and Ordinances concerning the Judiciary have never been sent to the Municipal Committee before.

4th Appointed Member (*Blackwood*) remarked: What the Chairman says is correct. That's a question we have been up against during the Danish Administration and also under the present Administration. Par. 7 is no criterion to stop the discussion on this ordinance.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (*Abramson*) remarked: Mr. Chairman. It seems to me that we have men in this Council who are only interested in furthering their own interests, we need men in this Council with more independent spirit. The manner in which this matter is being conducted is not fair to the general public. We need men who will stand here and do justice to their fellow men, and not men who are violating every principle because they are dependent upon Government for a livelihood.

Some time ago His Excellency the Governor came into this Council Hall, but how did he come? How did he meet us as legislators? Quite different to other Governors without the slightest bit of courtesy. Governor Oman on his first visit here, and every time after approached us with much courtesy.—

The Chairman: I must ask the Honorable to refrain from personalities, and anything that will reflect on the action of the Governor.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (*Abramson*). We are here to express our opinion and to represent the people.

The Chairman. Yes, but not to make remarks that would reflect on the Governor.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (*Abramson*). That's what really happened; it is not personal.

The Chairman. I again ask the Honorable Member to desist.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (*Abramson*). If you say I am not in order, then I yield, but to me it is ridiculous to leave my business to come here today, what for? The matter which we are here discussing is not to further the interest of the public; we are here to exchange views, but on what?

The Chairman: I will put it to the vote the motion made by the Honorable 2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) that the Ordinance be forwarded to the Municipal Committee before coming to this House for discussion.

2nd Member for Christiansted Town (*Canegata*) I wish to make a further motion—I ask that the vote on the motion be taken by roll call.

1st Member for Christiansted Town (*Abramson*) 3rd Member for said Town